

**HelpAge International with the support from UNESCAP**

would like to extend invitation to you to

the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing Side Event

**Older People's Associations – from community to national policy**

**Date:** Thursday 14 September 2017

**Time:** 1000 – 1200 hrs

**Venue:** Meeting Room H

## Background

Population ageing is now transforming the demographic configuration of societies in dramatic ways. In the near future, older people in many countries in the Asia Pacific region will account for a fifth to a third of the total population. This transition requires strategic adaptation based on a long-term vision of societies which cultivate and utilise the capacities of all generations.

Such adaptation requires recognising older people as a resource for society. They bring their experience, skills, availability and willingness to enhance their own wellbeing and improve their communities. This is the key to multifunctional Older People's Associations (OPA)<sup>i</sup>, a community-based model found in 13 countries across Asia. They work across a range of domains with older people as leaders and volunteers, and they facilitate the productive engagement of active older people in their communities and support to their vulnerable individuals.

The research carried out by the Oxford Institute of Ageing of the University of Oxford (*Older People's Associations in East and Southeast Asia*), demonstrates that well developed and managed Older People's Associations (OPA) have the potential to deliver tangible benefits to the well-being of older people and their families, from improved income and health to community-based disaster risk reduction to strengthened social cohesion. The research also demonstrates that OPAs can, and frequently are, be sustainable and replicable.

OPAs complement government policies and programmes responding to population ageing and support collaborative effort of the government, non-government, community and family to achieve development impacts inclusive of older people and benefiting the whole community. The strength of these organisations has been highlighted in policy frameworks by governments, United Nations agencies, regional and international organisations. They become key components of a social fabric adapted to the needs of population ageing. Still, the model warrants further consideration in planning and implementation of national strategies and local government programmes.

This session will explore the roles that OPAs can play in meeting the opportunities and challenges which result from rapid population ageing

## Schedule of session

1000-1010	Introduction to the session
1010-1025	A presentation on a new report titled 'Older People's Associations in East and Southeast Asia: a Four Country Study' by the University of Oxford Eduardo Klien
1030-1100	Case study: Government and NGO partnership in national replication of the Older People's Associations model in Vietnam Quyên Tran, Regional Programmes Advisor on Older People's Association
1100-1145	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Le Minh Giang, Office Director of the National Committee on Ageing, Vietnam</li><li>• Mr Suvinda Singappuli, Director, National Secretariat for Elders, Sri Lanka</li><li>• Ms Wendy Walker, Technical Advisor (Social Development), ADB, Manila</li><li>• Ms Thelma Key, Independent Expert, Singapore</li></ul>
1145-1200	Closing remarks

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<sup>i</sup> OPAs assume different names and are adapted to specific contexts: in Vietnam they are "Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs", in others Older People Groups, in Myanmar Older People Self-Help Groups, etc